THE GRAND FINALE OF...

STAR WARS BOUNTY HUNTERS

MARVEL 42

SACKS
MORALES
VILLANELLI
PRIANTO

DEATH MATCH ON TATOOINE!

Valance's memory has been restored, and now the cyborg hero has turned his sights to one last mission--an all-out assault on Jabba's palace.

Meanwhile, T'onga and the rest of the bounty hunters crew have disbanded. They are now each at their own crossroads, from which they face uncertain futures....

STAR WARS BOUNTY HUNTERS

THE SECRET WEAPON

ETHAN SACKS
WRITER

JETHRO MORALES *[MAIN STORY]*
& PAOLO VILLANELLI *[CODA]*
ARTISTS

ARIF PRIANTO
COLOR ARTIST

VC's TRAVIS LANHAM
LETTERER

JOSEMARIA CASANOVAS *COVER ARTIST*
DAVE WACHTER; WALTER SIMONSON & LAURA MARTIN *VARIANT COVER ARTISTS*

NICK RUSSELL
PRODUCTION DESIGN

MIKEY J. BASSO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK PANICCIA
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

FOR LUCASFILM:

ROBERT SIMPSON
SENIOR EDITOR

GRACE ORRISS
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MICHAEL SIGLAIN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

TROY ALDERS
ART DIRECTOR

MATT MARTIN, PABLO HIDALGO & EMILY SHKOUKANI
LUCASFILM STORY GROUP

PHIL SZOSTAK
CREATIVE ART MANAGER

Disney · LUCASFILM

The Palace of Jabba the Hutt, Tatooine.
<THE NEXT SUPPLICANT IS A TRADER FROM MOS ELREY.>*
<BAH, WHY DID THIS RUNT COME ALL THE WAY FROM THE WESTERN DUNE SEA JUST TO BORE ME?>
*TRANSLATED FROM HUTTESE.
HONORABLE JABBA, WHOSE MERCY KNOWS NO BOUNDS--
--I'M HERE AS A MERCHANT WHO PAYS YOU FOR PROTECTION.
THE TRANDOSHAN CLAN HAS BEEN ROBBING MY STORES.
I CAN OFFER YOU TEN PERCCCCENT HIGHER...AS A FRIENDSSSHIP FEE.
<I'VE HEARD ENOUGH. TAKE THE TRANDOSHAN TO THE TORTURE CHAMBER!>
<THE MERCHANT WAS UNDER MY PROTECTION...>
<...BUT NOW HE CAN BE KILLED WITHOUT ISSUE. THE TRANDOSHANS MAY HAVE THE FRANCHISE.>
WH-WHAAAAT?
<HUHUHU... A TEN PERCENT BONUS IS GOOD BUSINESS!>
AHA HAHAHA!
<DOES ANYONE ELSE DARE DELAY MY LUNCH FURTHER?>
UNNHHHHH
<EH?>
CLACKITY
CLACKITY
CLACK

YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR APPETITE.
SNORRRTTTT...!
SQUEEEEE!
CRACK
SHUNK
YEEEEE--
WHUMP
CRUNCH

YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.
<VALANCE! YOU WILL NOT GET A QUICK DEATH! YOU WILL SUFFER FOR THIS INSULT!>
<WHOEVER BRINGS HIM IN ALIVE FOR FURTHER TORTURE-->
<--WILL RISE IN MY ESTEEM-->
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
<--AND BE PAID 50,000 CREDITS FOR THE TROUBLE.>
I'D DO THIS FOR FREE.
=SIGH=

JABBA SAID ALIVE, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY UNSCATHED.
GONNA ENJOY CARVING OUT THAT SMUG LOOK FROM YOUR FACE, YOU GLOB OF MANTELLIAN SAVRIP VOMIT!
I OWE YOU FOR LEAVING ME BEHIND ON THAT ICE FLOE IN JEKARA.*
YEAH... SORRY ABOUT THAT, DENGAR.
*SEE BOUNTY HUNTERS #16.
SORRY? I HAD TO KILL A GIANT APEXATHOR WITH A KNIFE SMALLER THAN THIS ONE!*
I'VE BEEN TRAINED BY THE GURUS OF THE ASSASSIN GUILD IN TWELVE FORMS OF BLADED COMBAT.
YOUR FACE WILL BE HACKED TO PIECES BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT--
*NOT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.
AND SORRY ABOUT THIS.
MASHHH
--YOUUUUUUUU...
I WARNED YA.

WHAM
AAAH! NOT AGAIN!
OWWWWWW...
SLASSSHH
WHUMP
YIIIP!

HURK.

YOU BETTER DO YOUR PART, CHEWBACCA.

<IF YOU'RE NOT HERE IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO SAVE HAN SOLO-->

<--THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY?>
YOUR SECRET DROID. WHERE IS IT?
<HUHUHU. YOU ARE AN EVEN BIGGER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT.>
<BUT YOU ARE RIGHT TO FEAR BEING REPLACED... YOUR KIND OF BOUNTY HUNTER IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.>

<SHOW HIM JUST HOW ENDANGERED, BOBA FETT!>

HUHUH HUHUH!

WHOOOOSH

UMMFFF!

SLAM

SEE YOU GOT YOUR MEMORY BACK--

WHAM

WHUMP

FWWOOOOOO

--SO GETTING BEAT BY ME SHOULD BE FAMILIAR.

YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH GADGETS TO STOP ME.

STAY DOWN.
AARRGGHHHH!
ZZZAAP
AHA HAHAHA HA!
THUMP
<NOW TO KILL HIM SPECTACULARLY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO OTHERS.>
<MAYBE I'LL FEED HIM TO THE RANCOR.>
<BUT, MASTER JABBA, THOSE CYBERNETIC BITS COULD HURT ITS DIGESTIVE SYS-->
YAP
<BAH!>
I HAVE A SUGGESTION.
GIVE THE CYBORG WHAT HE CAME FOR.
<YES... PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO REVEAL MY NEW SECRET WEAPON...TO AN AUDIENCE.>
<GUARDS! GET A SKIFF AND TAKE THIS DOOMED SOUL TO-->

Mos Espa Grand Arena.
UNNNNNN...
ON YOUR FEET!
FWOOSH
AAHHH! DANK FARRIK!
ALL RIGHT, I'M UP! I'M UP!
GOOD. NOW, HURRY UP AND DIE SO WE CAN GO ON BREAK.

THAT DOESN'T LOOK PROMISING.
BUZZzzz
GREETINGS, VALANCE--
--AND TO OUR DISTINGUISHED RIVAL SYNDICATES WATCHING THIS DEMONSTRATION.
Pyke Syndicate lair, Oba Diah.
YOU WILL BEHOLD THE MIGHT OF A WEAPON THAT WILL BRING FEAR TO THE UNDERWORLD--
--ALONG WITH A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR THE HUTTS' PLACE AT THE TOP OF THE ORDER.
YOU TELL JABBA THAT NO PILE OF SCRAP METAL--
--IS EVER GOING TO BE A MATCH FOR A LIVING, BREATHING--
--BOUNTY HUNTER?

PRESENTING THE MEGADROID!
FORGED TO BE SUPERWEAPONS BY THE SEPARATISTS MANY YEARS AGO, THE JEDI DESTROYED THE MEGADROIDS FACTORY BEFORE THE ARMY COULD COME ONLINE.*
HAD THAT RAID FAILED, THE CLONE WARS MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT VERY DIFFERENTLY.
BUT HIS EMINENCE, JABBA, PROCURED THE ONLY INTACT MODEL SEVERAL YEARS AGO.
*SEE YODA #8-9.

SPARE ME THE HISTORY LESSON.
VZZYUUUMMM
VZZYUUUMMM
PING
PING
AH, YOU MIGHT NOTICE THE MEGADROID BOASTS A SHELL OF IMPENETRABLE DURASTEEL--
--NOT TO MENTION MANY OFFENSIVE... UPGRADES.
KAZANG
OOOOFFF...
CRASSHHH
WELL, I SUPPOSE WE WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE OUR PAYMENTS TO JABBA NOW.

YEARS AGO, JABBA CAME CLOSE TO ACQUIRING THE NEURAL CORE OF A LEGENDARY DROID WARRIOR CALLED AJAX SIGMA TO POWER THE DROID. BUT IT WAS LOST.*
GAAAHH...
BUT THE HUTTS NEVER LOST PATIENCE. THEY CONTINUED TO SEARCH.
*SEE THE HAN SOLO & CHEWBACCA: THE CRYSTAL RUN TPB FOR MORE DETAILS!
AND AMID ALL OF THE RECENT DROID... CHAOS, JABBA FOUND A WORTHY CORE--
OH NO.
--FROM THE REMNANTS OF A DROID SPACESHIP CALLED GERTEE.
HER STRATEGIC AND WEAPONS TRAINING CAME FROM AJAX HIMSELF.
CHOOOM
CHOOOM CHOOOM
WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP
CHOOOM
CHOOOM
BOOOOM
KRIFF THIS.
IN YOUR LAST MOMENTS, YOU MAY REGRET PICKING THIS FIGHT ON YOUR OWN.
WHO SAID I CAME ALONE?
WHAT IS THAT?

CAN'T BELIEVE THE SIGNAL WAS *ACTUALLY* AN EXPLOSION.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT IT'S LIKE AROUND THIS CREW, FRIEND *LOSHA?*

ZUCKUSS CAN CONFIRM THERE ARE *ALWAYS* EXPLOSIONS.

OKAY, STICK TO THE PLAN.

LOSHA, YOU'RE UP. AT THIS RANGE, IT'S GOING TO BE AN ALMOST *IMPOSSIBLE* SHOT.

OH, *T'ONGA,* MY LOVE--

--THOSE ARE MY FAVORITE KIND.

PEW

BUILT THIS BLASTER RIFLE MYSELF OUT OF A MODIFIED *PARTICLE BEAM DRILL* USED TO CUT DURASTEEL AT AN *IMPERIAL* MUNITIONS FACTORY.

IT *SHOULD* GET THAT PANEL OPEN...

HOPEFULLY.

ZZZAAPP

ZZZZ

VVVV

CHOOOOM
THOOOM
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE.
THUD
THE RIFLE IS FRIED. WHICH MEANS THE PLAN IS TOO.
THEN IT'S TIME FOR A NEW PLAN.
WHAT... WHAT'S SHE DOING?
KA-BOOOOM

MY TURN.
MISSED ME, YOU PIECE OF--
WHAMM
UGGHHHH...
CRUNCH
<AHUHUHUHUHU... THE WEAPON WORKS BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED!>
Nar Kanji.
<TASU, IT LOOKS BAD FOR YOUR FORMER COMRADE.>*
<VALANCE? HE'S TOO STUBBORN TO KNOW WHEN TO DIE-->
*TRANSLATED FROM JABLOGIAN.
<--WHICH IS WHY THE GIANT DROID IS DOOMED.>

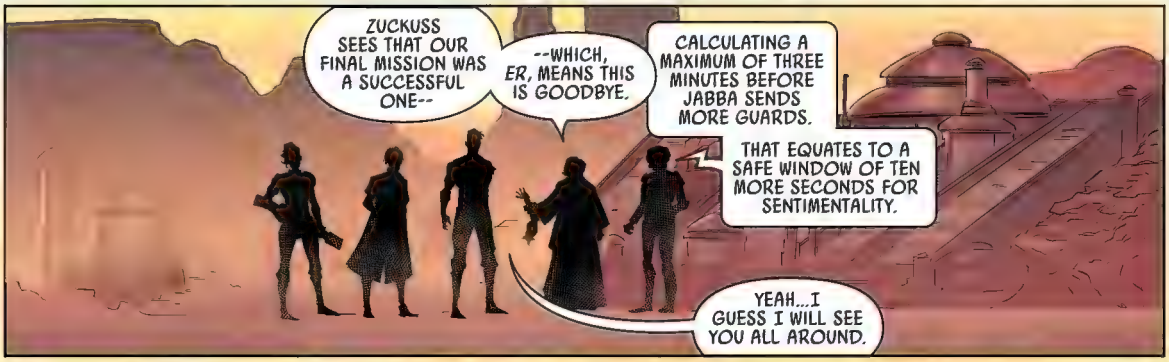
CAN'T... TAKE ANOTHER SHOT...LIKE THAT.
STAY AWAY FROM THE CYBORG.
FOR SOME REASON, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THIS UNIT'S PARTNER.
PYUUUM PYUUUM
SLASSHH
THIS STRATEGY WAS NOT PROPERLY CALCULATED.
WHUMP
DO NOT WORRY, ZUCKUSS WOULD NOT LET YOU BE HARMED.
YOU REMAIN THIS UNIT'S FAVORITE ORGANIC.
FRIEND FOR-ELLOEM, YOU ARE ALWAYS SO SENTIMENTAL.
BOOOOM

NOW'S MY CHANCE.
SNAAAPP
XZZZ
UH...
YAAARGHH!!!
SHREEEEDDDD
NOT AGAIN.
COME ON... YOU DUMB DROID!
I'VE GOT YOU RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU!

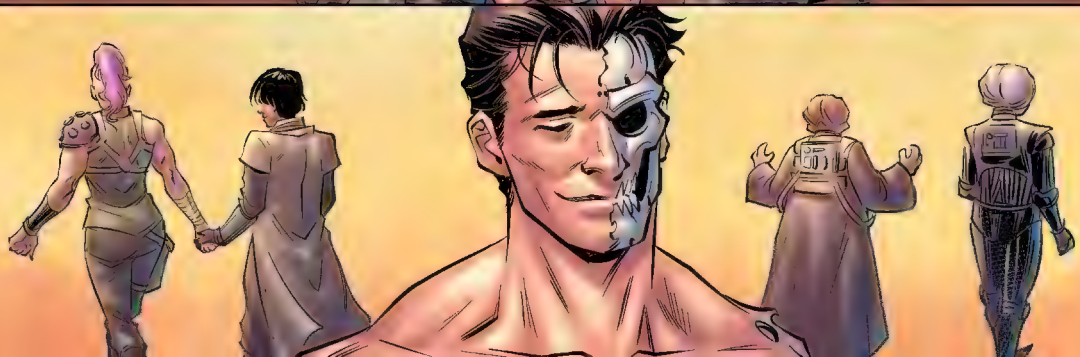
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR NEURAL CORE!
KERRANGG
ZZZAPPP
WHUMP
PEW
GOTTA HAND IT TO BOBA FETT--HE MANAGED TO SET THIS UP NICELY.
WAIT, WHAT? WHY WOULD THAT SLEEMO COOPERATE?
BECAUSE IF FRIEND VALANCE COULD SUCCEED--
"--THEN NOT FRIEND FETT WOULD REMAIN JABBA'S FAVORITE.
"AND IF WE FAILED, THAT IS A FEW LESS POTENTIAL RIVALS FOR FUTURE BOUNTIES."
CLICK... SKZZZ
IT'S DONE.
JABBA'S GUARD DOG HAS BEEN TAKEN OFF THE DEJARIK BOARD.
MY CREW HAS HELD UP OUR END OF THE BARGAIN. WHEN IT'S TIME--

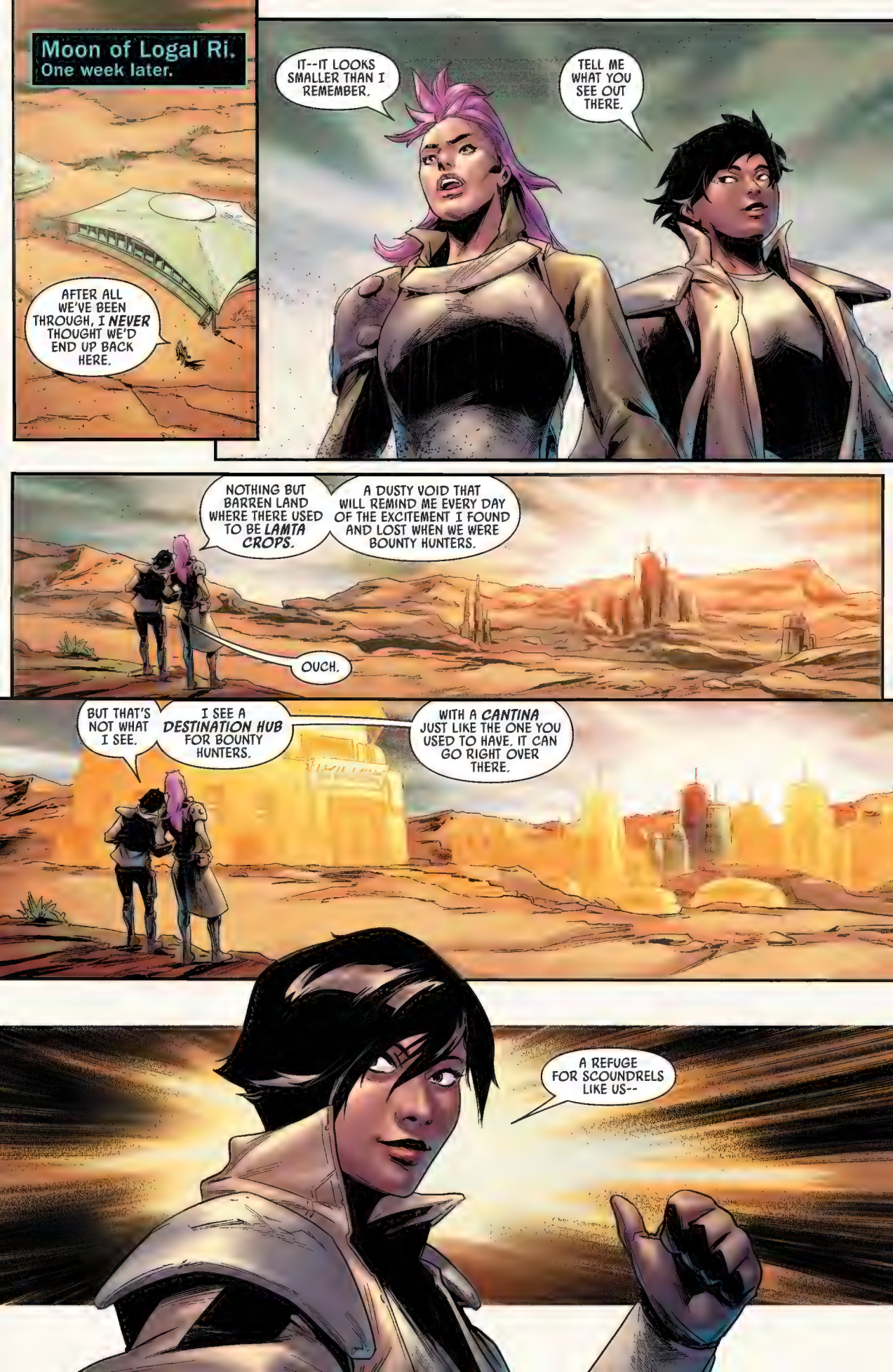
--I TRUST YOU TO HOLD UP YOURS, CHEWBACCA.
HE MEANS A LOT TO ME.
GWWWARRRR...
THAT SCOUNDREL MEANS A LOT TO ALL OF US.
YOU HAVE OUR WORD.

CLICK.
DID I HEAR THAT RIGHT, LEIA? DID THIS VALANCE ACTUALLY JUST WALK INTO JABBA'S PALACE, DEMAND A FIGHT WITH THE DEADLIEST DROID EVER BUILT AND ACTUALLY FACE IT--
--INSTEAD OF SIMPLY SNEAKING IN AND SABOTAGING IT LIKE A RATIONAL PERSON?
WELL, HE IS ONE OF HAN'S FRIENDS.


ZUCKUSS SEES THAT OUR FINAL MISSION WAS A SUCCESSFUL ONE--
--WHICH, ER, MEANS THIS IS GOODBYE.
CALCULATING A MAXIMUM OF THREE MINUTES BEFORE JABBA SENDS MORE GUARDS.
THAT EQUATES TO A SAFE WINDOW OF TEN MORE SECONDS FOR SENTIMENTALITY.
YEAH...I GUESS I WILL SEE YOU ALL AROUND.

I'M GONNA TAKE THAT AS A PROMISE, BIG GUY.




Moon of Logal Ri.
One week later.
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D END UP BACK HERE.
IT--IT LOOKS SMALLER THAN I REMEMBER.
TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE OUT THERE.
NOTHING BUT BARREN LAND WHERE THERE USED TO BE LAMTA CROPS.
A DUSTY VOID THAT WILL REMIND ME EVERY DAY OF THE EXCITEMENT I FOUND AND LOST WHEN WE WERE BOUNTY HUNTERS.
OUCH.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I SEE.
I SEE A DESTINATION HUB FOR BOUNTY HUNTERS.
WITH A CANTINA JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU USED TO HAVE. IT CAN GO RIGHT OVER THERE.
A REFUGE FOR SCOUNDRELS LIKE US--

"--AWAY FROM THE DESTRUCTIVE CIVIL WAR THAT'S ENVELOPING THE GALAXY.
"EMPIRE. REBELS. WHOEVER WINS THE BATTLE IN THE STARS--
"--THEY'LL MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE REST OF US TO EKE OUT AN EXISTENCE ON THE GROUND BELOW.
WHAT DID YOU DO NOW, DENGAR?
YOU STEAL ONE LOUSY SHIPMENT OF SPICE WINE FROM AN IMPERIAL OFFICER...
"FEW OF US CAN SURVIVE, MUCH LESS THRIVE, ON OUR OWN."
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
AAAIEEEE!
THIS IG UNIT IS REVOKING THE ORIGINAL OFFER.
YOUR BOUNTY PARAMETERS ARE NO LONGER DEAD OR ALIVE.

"BOUNTY HUNTERS LIKE US NEED A REASON TO KEEP FIGHTING...SOMETHING DEEPER THAN JUST CREDITS.
MAMA BAGGED ANOTHER SLEEMO. ONCE WE GET HIM TO NEVARRO TO COLLECT--
--WE'LL HAVE SOME EXTRA BLUE MILK TO CELEBRATE, FURBALL TWO!
"WE NEED TO FIND OUR CREW. A COMMUNITY WHO UNDERSTANDS US.
<LET'S STRANGLE THEM WITH THEIR OWN ENTRAILS!>
<TAKES SOME GUTS TO TRY...HAH! YOU GET IT?>
<HAR, TASU LEECH! YOU MAKE MURDERING PYKES EVEN MORE FUN!>
"PARTNERS WHO WILL ALWAYS HAVE OUR BACKS--JUST AS WE HAVE THEIRS.
ZUCKUSS THINKS THAT WE MAKE AN EXCELLENT TEAM, OLD FRIEND.
THAT IS AN ACCURATE ANALYSIS.

"BECAUSE WITHOUT THOSE BONDS, WITHOUT THOSE CONNECTIONS--
THERE IS A POSITIVE MEDICAL UPDATE, MADAM YURA.
DESPITE BURNS FROM THE BOMBING, THE PROGNOSIS FOR LIEUTENANT KONDRA MAKING A FULL RECOVERY IS ENCOURAGING.
"--THEN WE ARE TRULY ALL ALONE IN THIS COLD GALAXY."
LET'S TOAST TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOUNTY.
SEEMS THE BIG GUY HAS RUN OUT, KHEL.
WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING, DURGE-- SPICE RUM, JET JUICE OR GAMORREAN MOONSHINE?
YES.
MIGHT HAVE MADE A MISSSSTAKE.
MY BROTHER AND I FOUND A HOME THAT WE NEVER HAD BEFORE ON NAKANO LASH'S CREW.
WE COULD PROVIDE A SIMILAR CONNECTION FOR OTHERS.
AND SERVE THEM A FEW EXPENSIVE DRINKS FOR THE PRIVILEGE.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THAT? WE'RE BROKE.
OH, WE ARE.
BUT I FOUND A SILENT PARTNER.
HEY!

I NEVER SAID I WOULD BE SILENT.
IF YOU WANT SOME OF MY FORTUNE TO BANKROLL THIS DREAM OF YOURS--
--IT COMES WITH MY DEMANDS.
TOP OF THE LIST IS TO TRAIN ME TO BE A BOUNTY HUNTER LIKE MY LAST MENTORS--AUNT NAKANO AND VALANCE.
TWO, I WANT A SWEET-SAND COOKIE STAND IN YOUR CANTINA.
AND WE HAVE TO BOOK THE MAX REBO BAND. I HEARD THEY HAVE A KOOVY CHIDINKALU HORN PLAYER.
SURE, CADELIAH. SURE.
ANYWAY... CAN YOU SEE IT NOW?
WE'LL NEED TO STOCK FRESH TARKENIAN SEEDS FOR THE BAR.
NONE OF THE CHEAPER STUFF. I DON'T SERVE ANYTHING BUT THE BEST COCKTAILS.

Pelkonen Space Port, Outer Rim.
LIEUTENANT... OR SHOULD I SAY FORMER LIEUTENANT HAYDENN...
SURRENDER PEACEFULLY AND SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CONTEMPLATE YOUR CRIMES IN AN IMPERIAL PRISON CAMP.
AS GENEROUS AN OFFER... AS THAT IS--
--I'LL PASS!
WHAM
YEEOOWW!
THUMP
UNNNN...
DEATH... =SNORT=...IT IS, THEN.
READY.
AIM.
FIRE.
UZYUUM
UZYUUM

YOU... YOU CAME FOR ME--
--VALANCE!
YOU ARE A HARD PERSON TO FIND.
CRACK
HURK...
I...I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE ME EVER AGAIN.
I WAS ANGRY FOR A WHILE, JYALA...AND THEN I APPARENTLY FORGOT YOU ENTIRELY.
BUT I WAS HOPING...TOGETHER... WE COULD...MAKE SOME NEW MEMORIES.
PEW
EH, THAT DIDN'T COME OUT THE WAY I REHEARSED IT.
WHAT I MEAN IS... I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME MISSING THE PAST I HAD BEFORE I NEARLY DIED ON MIMBAN--
--THAT I ALMOST MISSED SOMETHING SPECIAL RIGHT NOW.
OH, BEILERT, YOU BIG NERF.
THE EMPIRE WILL BE AFTER BOTH OF US.
SO, WHAT... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT THERE IS A GALAXY OF POSSIBILITIES OUT THERE.
DO YOU WANT TO FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER?
The End... For Now.

Our journey has come to an end.

Getting to put words in the mouths of some of the classic bounty hunters from my *Empire Strikes Back* bedsheets proved to be a singular career highlight. One only matched by the chance to co-create new characters that I hope will stand the test of time too.

This 4-year, 42-issue run meant so much to me that it's hard to put it into words. But I'll try.

First and foremost, I salute my friend, artist **Paolo Villanelli,** who bestowed this book with its signature cinematic look. Paolo co-piloted the series with me for 31 issues and remained an inspiration right up to the last page. Our collaboration became magic.

But we were blessed to have a murderers' row of other great artists also shine on this book--**Ramón F. Bachs, Natacha Bustos, Alessandro Miracolo, Lan Medina, Davide Tinto** and **Jethro Morales** each made my scripts turn out so much better than I could have dreamed. There wasn't a single page over these four years that didn't look stunning.

One reason was the consistent brilliance of colorist **Arif Prianto,** who made every panel from issue #1 to issue #42 feel like a frame from a *Star Wars* film. There are not enough words of praise for letterer extraordinaire **Travis Lanham,** which I realize is ironic. There are too many fantastic cover artists to name-check here, but I cherish the fine work of each and every one.

Thank you to my editors, **Mark Paniccia, Danny Khazem, Mikey J. Basso** and **C.B. Cebulski,** whose guidance and support meant everything. Thank you to **Tom Groneman,** who helped me take my first step into a larger world, to paraphrase some old guy on Tatooine. Mark has been a mentor and a friend who helped me through a rough time in my personal life, and I will love him forever.

The best part of this experience: collaborating with fellow writers **Charles Soule, Alyssa Wong, Greg Pak** and **Marc Guggenheim.** They were generous in sharing their experience and advice on how to make a story better. I always listened. I learned from their scripts. Our Wednesday Zoom calls were the highlight of my week. I entered excited to have them as A-list colleagues; I depart blessed to have them as A-plus friends.

I owe so much to Disney Publishing giants **Michael Siglain** and **Robert Simpson.** I thank them for entrusting me to be a part of the magical franchise that has owned my heart since the summer of 1977.

Gratitude also goes out to the Lucasfilm Story Group--**Pablo Hidalgo, Matt Martin, Emily Shkoukani** and **Phil Szostak** became my personal Jedi Council. They are the best combination of genius and geek.

Thank you to the retailers, reviewers and reporters who helped spread the word.

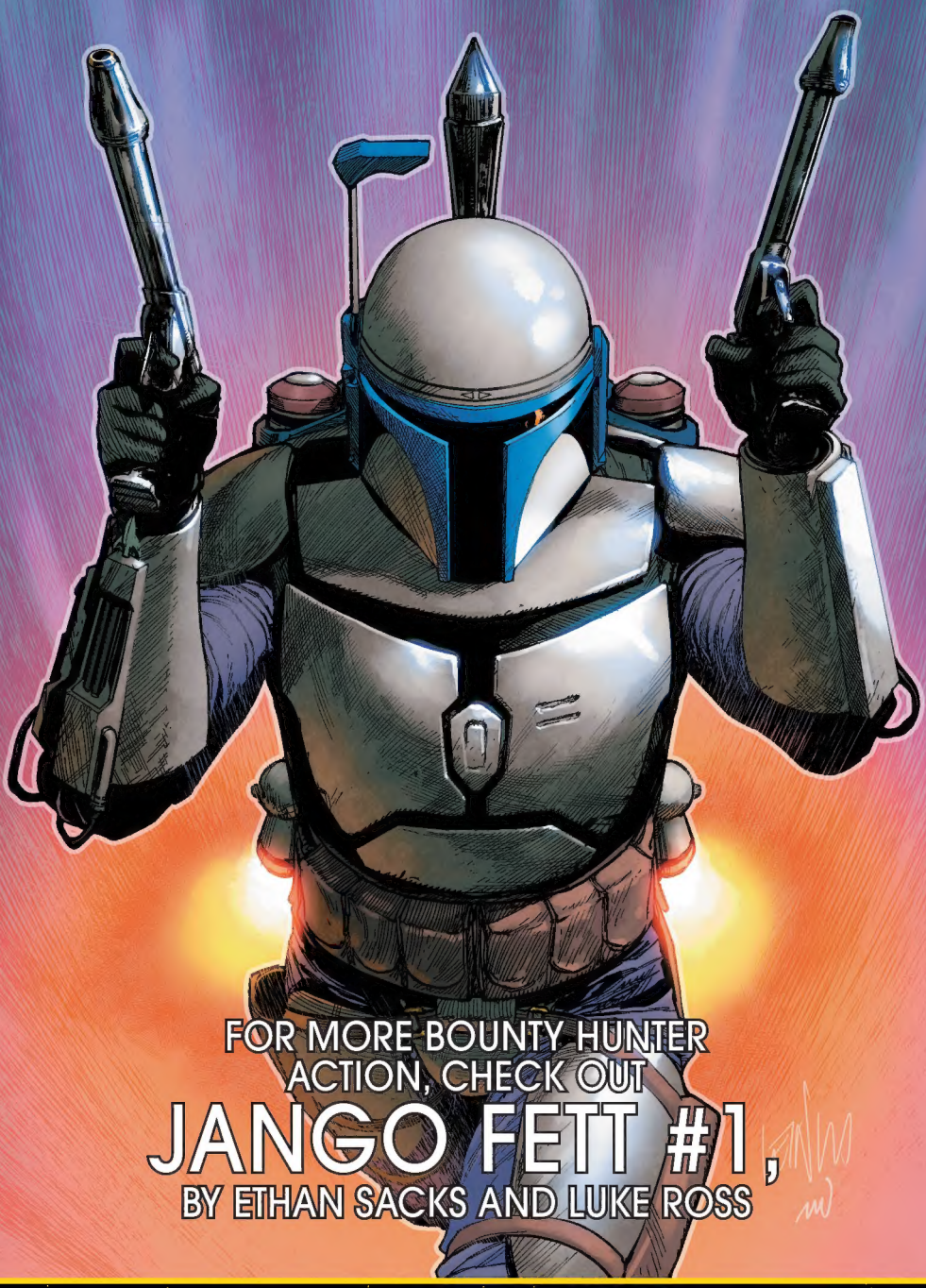
But most of all, thank you.

Whether this is your first BOUNTY HUNTERS comic or you are a card-carrying member of *#ValanceNation* who endured years of perpetual heartbreak and occasional smiles, this series couldn't have made it without the support of the fans.

And for that, I am forever grateful, you wonderful scoundrels.

Ethan Sacks
New York City
July 2023

VALANCE AND T'ONGA'S CREW HAS GONE ON THEIR FINAL MISSION...FOR NOW!



FOR MORE BOUNTY HUNTER ACTION, CHECK OUT

JANGO FETT #1,

BY ETHAN SACKS AND LUKE ROSS

STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM